

April 7, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen, do you wish to close debate?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to make one comment to Senator Barnett that we do have ambulances in our area and do not haul them in the back of the pickup or station wagon. By way of closing, I ask for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The question is, the adoption of Senator Rasmussen's amendment. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 10 ayes, 20 nays on the Rasmussen amendment.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails.

CLERK: No more amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Richard Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I have a very serious question, Mr. President, and I hope Senator Kennedy will answer it. We have two bills up here that we are being beaten over the head by the federal government and I would like to know, on LB 418, Senator Kennedy, I am not casting any reflections on you but you are more exposed to this than anybody else. Now what does this bill do that, in your opinion, that justifies the federal government withholding highway funds if we don't pass it? What in the world does this do that is so important that we do not now do?

SENATOR KENNEDY: In answer to that, I would say this does prescribe and give minimum amount of training, educational training, and would give us an opportunity to go ahead, if there are federal funds available, that we might use those federal funds in the educational progress of these ambulance service.

SENATOR MARVEL: Well, is the...are those who are proposing this legislation saying, in effect, that we do not have adequate training now for ambulance drivers or that we do not have enough ambulances, or both.

SENATOR KENNEDY: I am sure that if we were to have the A-#1, we do not have enough of both and they are making an attempt to...all of your smaller towns, your smaller communities as well as the larger ones, I am sure, are attending the classes. The classes are full. They are working very serious because they are volunteers. They are driving at least as far as 40 miles to get this education and improve the service. This would continue to do that very thing, to improve the service for the people of the state of Nebraska. Now, if the federal people so desire and have funds available, we certainly would have part...at least we could share or we could take some of those funds where other states are not doing what the feds. are asking, will not get those funds for education purposes. So I would hope this would give us an opportunity to go ahead and request federal funds and proceed with the education in the advanced training as much as possible.

SENATOR MARVEL: One more question, if I could. Are you saying if we pass this legislation, we then qualify for